

HABITAT CONSERVATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Technical Committee (TC) was held in the conference room of the Washington County Administration Building, **December 10, 2015.**

Members present were:

Kristen Comella, Chairperson	Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)
Cameron Rognan, Vice Chairman	Washington County HCP
Ann McLuckie	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Nathan Brown	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Absent and Excused were:

Marshall Topham	Local Biologist
John Kellam	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Also present were:

Bob Sandberg	Washington County HCP Administrator
Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kristen Comella noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. October 8, 2015

MOTION by Cameron Rognan to approve the minutes.
Seconded by Ann McLuckie.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Consideration of Pioneer Park Fencing

Exhibit 3-a-1 is a map of proposed fencing at Pioneer Park. Cameron mentioned he sent the map to the City of St. George, and the plans have been approved. Committee members agreed the plans are acceptable. Kristen suggested putting a small sign at the step over reminding visitors there are tortoises in the area. Cameron will work on that and send committee members a few possibilities.

b. Consideration of 2016 TC meeting dates

Exhibit 3-b-1 is a list of potential 2016 Technical Committee meeting dates. The meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month.

MOTION by Ann McLuckie to accept the 2016 Technical Committee meeting dates.
Seconded by Cameron Rognan.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

4. OTHER REPORTS FROM TC MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Ann mentioned the Desert Tortoise Council is coming up in February. She is doing a presentation on the status of the remote cameras that are placed in the Reserve. Cameron mentioned he is presenting something as well, though he and Bob have not decided what that will be yet.

b. Cameron gave an update on the Quarry Trail. It has been approved through the City and HCAC. They have most likely started the work outside the Reserve and know to contact Cameron before starting work inside the Reserve. At that point he will have them go through tortoise training.

c. Nathan was not able to attend the October meeting and asked for an update on Kirk Willey's development. Kristen answered she suggested he contact Nathan. Mr. Willey has put together a proposal and is discussing his requests with the BLM.

d. Nathan mentioned the Long Valley Exchange is going forward. Although the area was not considered a "take area" in the HCP, there are tortoises there so it is an interesting situation. The HCP says the Administrator can change the boundaries of identified take areas, but it does not speak upon creating new take areas. Cameron mentioned a lot of the take areas are isolated fragments so this could be considered a redefinition of the boundary of the St. George take area. This issue will be brought to the attention of the HCAC in January.

e. Bob informed the committee that Rocky Mountain Power is doing pole replacement and adding a fiber optic line along Cottonwood Road. They are set to start work in mid January. There have been discussions regarding the active and inactive season for tortoises so they are hoping they will be finished before the active season begins.

Also, St. George City is doing work on the City Creek Well.

f. Nathan mentioned the Lake Powell Pipeline issue is back. He is not sure if the proposed pipeline goes through the Reserve, but he will look into that.

g. Kristen mentioned there is a piece of fencing that is broken at the Cliffs. She also updated that the proposed shoulder expansion in Snow Canyon State Park is moving forward.

h. Nathan mentioned a 32-page paper that was written by the USFWS regarding why the Northern Corridor is not conducive to desert tortoise conservation. It was sent to the BLM as an attachment to the RMP comments from the USFWS. Nathan will send a copy to the TC members.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

a. January 14, 2016

6. ADJOURN

MOTION by Cameron Rognan to adjourn.

Seconded by Ann McLuckie.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.